

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8509
INFO: RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0097
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USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1586

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HU, CH
SUBJECT: NORMALIZATION WITH PRC A TWO-WAY STREET, HUNGARIAN PARTY
ORGAN SAYS

1. IN POST-MAO CHINA A TREND OF CHANGE IS DISCERNIBLE IN DOMESTIC POLICIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, WHILE THE CHINA-CENTERED, ANTI-SOVIET, GREAT-POWER POSTURE CONTINUES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS CONCLUSION IS DRAWN IN AN ARTICLE ANALYZING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA THAT APPEARS IN THE MAY ISSUE OF TARSADALME SZEMLE, THE THEORETICAL AND POLITICAL MONTHLY OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY (HSWP).

2. WITH REMOVAL OF THE GANG OF FOUR, THE EXTREMIST LEADERS HAVE DROPPED OUT OF POWER, THE ARTICLE SAYS, ADDING THAT THE POLICY CARRIED OUT SINCE LAST OCTOBER APPARENTLY TALLIES AT MANY POINTS WITH THE PRAGMATISTS' PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE POWER STRUGGLE AND DIFFERENCES REGARDING THE ROAD TO BE FOLLOWED AND THE METHODS TO BE APPLIED ARE FAR FROM OVER, THE PERIODICAL DECLARES. "THIS IS APPARENT
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FROM THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF KEY POSTS IN THE PARTY AND ADMINISTRATION ARE STILL VACANT," IT CONCLUDES.

3. TARSADALMI SZEMLE POINTS OUT THAT HUA KUO-FENG'S REWORDED NEW PROGRAM ESSENTIALLY TIES IN WITH WHAT CHOU EN-LAI SKETCHED OUT IN JANUARY 1975, THAT IS, TO RAISE CHINA TO THE WORLD'S TOP RANK BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS, IN A COUNTRY AS BACKWARD AS CHINA ONE QUARTER OF A CENTURY WILL HARDLY SUFFICE TO REACH SUCH A GOAL.

4. RE FOREIGN POLICY, THE JOURNAL SAYS: "CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS FAILED TO SHOW ANY PERCEPTIBLE SIGN OF CHANGE. CHINA'S SPURNING OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES' FRIENDLY GESTURES AND DENUNCIATORY ARTICLES IN THE CHINESE PRESS--THESE ARE EXPRESSIONS OF AN ANTI-SOVIET STANCE THAT HAS LONG SINCE BECOME SOMETHING OF A STANDARD REFLEX IN CHINA." IN THE FACE OF SUCH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, TARSADALMI SZEMLE SAYS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AMONG THEM HUNGARY, HAVE SHOWN FAR-REACHING PATIENCE AND HAVE REITERATED THEIR READINESS FOR RAPPROCHEMENT COMBINING THEM WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WHICH CANNOT BE SETTLED, GIVEN MUTUAL DESIRE AND GOODWILL." SUCH A READINESS FOR RAPPROCHEMENT, THE JOURNAL SAYS, PRESUPPOSES THAT ENDEAVORS FOR NORMALIZATION OF CONTACTS DO NOT REMAIN ONE-SIDED.

5. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE IN TARSADALMI SZEMLE IS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF SOVIET-INSPIRED HUNGARIAN COMMENTARY ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. ALTHOUGH THE HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL PRESS HAS BEEN PERSISTENTLY AND CONSISTENTLY CRITICAL OF THE PRC NOW FOR MANY YEARS, WE DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE QUITE AS STRAINED AS ONE WOULD JUDGE FROM PRESS COMMENTS. IN OUR LIMITED CONTACTS HERE WITH OFFICIALS
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OF THE PRC EMBASSY THEY ARE AT PAINS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE HUNGARIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRC FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES. THE CHINESE DCM (HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT HUNGARIAN AND HAS SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN HUNGARY AS A STUDENT BACK IN THE 50'S) CLAIMS THAT IF CIRCUMSTANCES WERE DIFFERENT THE HUNGARIANS WOULD WELCOME A BIG-POWER FRIEND IN ASIA. HUNGARIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS ON THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL ARE CORRECT BUT NOT PARTICULARLY WARM. THERE ARE NO PARTY-TO-PARTY CONTACTS BETWEEN THE HUNGARIANS AND CHINESE AND APPARENTLY FEW PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING THEM.
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